

For Immediate Release

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**BARNABAS NETWORK LAUNCHES “NO CHILD LEFT ON THE FLOOR”
TO PROVIDE MATTRESSES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED**

***Inter-Denominational Organization Distributes New Sealy Mattresses
In Time For Back-To-School***

GREENSBORO, NC, August 22, 2007 – The Barnabas Network Furniture Ministry today launched a campaign to provide new mattress sets and bed frames to children in Guilford County, ages 2 to 18, who sleep on the floor each night because they don't have their own beds. The “No Child Left on the Floor” campaign will provide a great night's sleep to more than 200 children before they return to school this month.

Two corporate sponsors, Sealy and VF Jeanswear/Blue Bell Foundation, pitched in to help kick off the campaign. A grant from Future Fund of Greater Greensboro and private donations from community members helped, as well.

“Most of us assume that every school-age child in Guilford County sleeps on their own bed before heading to school in the morning, but unfortunately that's not the case,” said the Rev. Virginia Herring, assistant rector at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Greensboro and a board member of the Barnabas Network. “These children are at such a disadvantage because they're not able to get the good night's sleep they need to be alert in class.”

Mattress recipients are referred to the Barnabas Network by counselors in the Guilford County school system, as well as through local social service agencies. Qualified families include the working poor and others who face harsh financial challenges (see attached profiles of Barnabas mattress recipients).

Sealy Corporation, the Barnabas Network's charter sponsor, donated 150 mattress sets to the campaign and will provide additional mattresses at a significant discount.

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“Sealy employees have a remarkable spirit of generosity and we look for ways to make a positive impact in the communities where we live and work,” said Jeff Claypool, senior vice president of human resources at Sealy. “Our hope is that today’s donation will inspire all of us to continue working to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate.”

The Barnabas Network still needs additional support to ensure all children in the Guilford County school system fall asleep each night on a comfortable mattress. Anyone interested in donating money, pillows or new or slightly used twin-size sheets can contact the organization at (336) 370-4002.

“Our campaign goal is to help the 400 area families who have already been referred to Barnabas Network because their children are sleeping on the floor or sharing a bed with an adult relative,” said Rev. Herring. “We are seeking contributions from individuals, corporations, and foundations to help us ensure that no area children are left sleeping on the floor.”

About Barnabas Network

Barnabas Network is a not-for-profit organization formed by a diverse set of faith-based communities in the Greensboro area. Barnabas’ objective is to assist needy families in the Greensboro community by providing resources and support to the working poor and other disadvantaged families in this area. Qualified families served by Barnabas are referred to Barnabas by various social agencies in the area. In addition to the Furniture Network, separate units have been created to provide job readiness training and placement assistance, and to provide reliable transportation for use in commuting to work. Barnabas Network is a 501(c)3 charitable organization, and receives private donations and grants to support its mission.

Barnabas Network Mattress Campaign Recipient Profiles*

1. James is a 10 year old boy, the middle of three children, who recently moved into a small apartment with his mother and two sisters. His mom works in an hourly job, and the three kids attend public school. Previously the family, including his father, had all lived together. His dad was a nice man most of the time, but sometimes when he got really angry, he would throw things and hit his mom. Finally, they had to move to escape his erratic behavior. His mother has been trying to furnish their new apartment. She sleeps on the sofa, and has found beds for the two girls, but James has been sleeping on a pile of blankets and sleeping bags on the floor. Now, thanks to the Barnabas Furniture Ministry, James has his own bed.

2. Tammy and Wendy are sisters. They were placed in foster care when their mother was incarcerated three years ago. Their mom is now out of jail and has completed a drug rehab program. She now has a steady job and an apartment. The court agreed to return her daughters to her, but only after a social worker verified that she had a bed for each child, seating for the living room, and a table and chairs for eating. She tried to rent furniture, but found it would cost almost as much as her rent - \$450/month. Barnabas Network provided the furniture she needed, including mattresses for her children, and now Tammy and Wendy are living happily with their mother.

3. Michael is two and a half years old, and is the youngest of three children. He has been sleeping in a crib he has outgrown. He climbs in and out by himself, and clearly is big enough to have a "regular" bed. But even though both mom and dad have jobs, there is not enough money to buy new furniture. Their combined household income is \$27,000 per year, which supports a family a family of five. The family was referred to Barnabas Network, and now Michael sleeps in his very own twin bed.

*Note: the family circumstances depicted in these profiles are true, although the names have been changed to protect the identities of the Barnabas Network mattress recipients

Barnabas Network Mattress Campaign Additional Information

The Barnabas Network is grateful for the generous contributions made by the following donors:

- Sealy Corporation
- VF Jeanswear/Blue Bell Foundation
- Future Fund of Greater Greensboro
- The McIlquham Family Foundation

Additional assistance is required to achieve the campaign's goal of "No Child Left on the Floor" for over 400 area families that have been referred to the Barnabas Network by school counselors and social agencies. In addition to cash contributions, donations of slightly used twin-size sheets and pillows are requested. For more information, contact Barnabas Network at (336) 370-4002, or mail checks to:

Barnabas Network 2020 East Market Street Greensboro, NC 27405

Barnabas Network is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All contributions of cash and merchandise in good condition are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.